



THE GRADUATE AND THE FARM

(Written Specially for The Bulletin.)

The school and college year has now closed in its usual "blaze of glory." From thirty to thirty-five thousand students of different institutions have "graduated." Some have taken "sheepskins" and some have drawn plain paper certificates and some have got nothing to show in their school work except what may be in their heads. But they've all finished with the school room and are now preparing to take a course in real life.

It's the customary thing to poke gentle fun at these young folks. They are apt to have high ideals and, also, rather high opinions of their own ability. They frequently show themselves—to put it mildly—just a little bit pompous. They haven't yet quite compassed the hemispheric difference between swag and dignity—between over-confidence and self-confidence. They too often make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of older travelers by their assumptions of superiority. Therefore, they are easy subjects to satirize and ridicule and cartoonize. But, somehow, I haven't any temptation to laugh at them nor at the trite and strained "smartness" which makes fun of them. Rather, I am moved to profound sympathy with them and to a painful apprehension, as I foresee the awful mistakes that too many of them are going to make.

They wonder, most of them, what they are going to do with life. I wonder—with something of terror in my wonder—what life is going to do with them. They have been learning to swim a little in the still inside waters of the sheltered cove. Now they must see where they can get among the breakers and the surf and the seaweed and the undertow and the crashing storm waves of the broad ocean, where there are no life lines for them to cling to, and no swimming-master to help if they get out of their depth. Yet, if they are going to reach their castles in Spain, there are thousands of weary miles of buffeting before them.

And few of them—very, very few of them, are ever going to reach those castles of their youthful dreams. "If youth only knew," sighs the old French proverb. How can it? Knowledge is the child of experience, seldom of mere teaching. One might as well expect to raise the two-year-old colt in a minute as to find an old man's head on a young man's shoulders. Nevertheless, we grizzled old fellows are almost as fond of giving advice to the lads as they are of telling us how we should have managed the world when we first took hold of it. Perhaps it never does any good; it might, in some rare exceptions, it might.

For many years I've wondered why men of education, college men and the like, should so unanimously refuse to farm and the open life of the country. They plunge into the professions, like rats into a granary; the professions where statistics show that not one out of five of them can make a decent living and not one out of ten a real place in the world. Or they go into business where, again, statistics make it clear that eight out of every ten will fall wretchedly. In both cases they seem to be blind to the deplorable fact that, whichever they go into, they are casting themselves into the hopper of a machine in which their ideas and their high aspirations and most of that in them which makes for individuality are to be ground up into a mush of uniformity. The life of the country, on the other hand, is a continuous education, quite as high and honorable in its character and scope as any given in academic halls.

It is rotten nonsense to talk as if educated men had declined to something below their proper level when they take up farming. They have simply undertaken a post-graduate course which will call for the exercise and development of all that is best and noblest in them. They propose to get what's really in it out of it. They have chosen the most natural life there is—the life least hampered by conventional restrictions, least liable to maiming and mutilation. They have chosen the most symmetrical life there is—the one least in danger of becoming abnormal. They have chosen the life giving greatest promise of success—if by "success" they mean the real thing and not some gaudily bedizened artificial imitation.

Let it be admitted without hesitation that the farmer's life is not apt to lead to wealth and ease and luxury. Very few lives do. If they are your objects and you deliberately set out to achieve them, the chances are 99 in the hundred that you will fail on the road. If you are the hundredth man—the one exception—and win them, it is not a mere chance. It is a certainty that you will find your whole life has been a failure, not merely in the road you have wearily traveled but in the end you have attained.

For neither wealth, nor ease, nor luxury is the worthy end of a man's life. They may gratify the craving of weaklings and degenerates, but never do they fill the measure of a man.

United States. Yet it is this same James J. Hill who recently wrote in an article intended for reading in one of our largest colleges his belief that "a good many hundred university graduates in this country every year would be better off if they had shaped their studies with a view to agricultural industry, and taken their diplomas straight to a farm."

Mr. Hill asserts that the man with a university education, "supplemented by just such practical instruction as he would feel essential in any other occupation," is "certain" of success on the farm in proportion to his industry and ability. "I do not know," adds Mr. Hill, "of any other occupation of which these sweeping assertions can be made. And then he adds these golden words:

"I do not know of any occupation in which it is more possible to continue in connection with the main business of earning a living that enrichment and enlargement of the mind which is the best gift of university life, and its proper though seldom realized continuation after the university has been left behind."

Right there Mr. Hill touches a side of life's problem which ought to appeal more strongly than seems common to the eyes of youth. The old idea that a farmer is nothing but a hoe-smith, a dirt-digger, a clod-hopper, a drudge in purely physical labor has gone out among those who know. The farmer needs and finds use for his brains quite as much as farming as the lawyer does a law-er, or the business man a business-er. Furthermore, he finds use for about sixteen more kinds of brains than the professional man or the business man ever does. In the professions and in business specializing is the rule and an essential of success. The man who wins out must know one thing and do one thing. The special work may be a great work and the one thing he does a big thing, but he must restrict himself to its limits, whatever they may be. Instead of broadening out he must narrow himself; instead of enrichment and enlargement of the mind he must accept something perilously near atrophy in all but one or two of its functions. He must prune his life of all side-branches and out-growths, limbs, till it spindles up into a sort of attenuated flagpole of a tree, instead of the wide-crowned symmetrical perfection it might have been. But the life of the free country and the open lands invites all there is in a man forth to grow naturally and equally. The real call of the modern farmer's work is as much on his mind as his muscles. One great beauty is that it builds up both—the sound mind in the sound body. One great glory is that it exercises the intellect and very faculty of the mind with impartial fairness. There is nothing one-sided nor top-sloped about it. To meet all its demands and fulfill all its exactions one needs all the training he can get in every possible field of knowledge. He needs all the experience and skill he can acquire. He needs all the hard work and the most unflinching industry. He needs a continuous education, quite as high and honorable in its character and scope as any given in academic halls.

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LETTERS FROM TWO STATES

WINDHAM COUNTY

WARRENVILLE

Young People's Entertainment—Lanphear House Struck by Lightning.

Robert M. Balch, Milton Durkee and Raymond O. Baker have recently joined the Babcock band.

Miss Eva S. Spooner, who for the past few months has been in the employ of Mrs. W. H. Platt, has returned to her home in Westford.

Pleasing Entertainment.

The young people of this village gave a fine entertainment in Baker's hall, Friday evening last week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Bassett have been entertaining Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bassett.

Miss Genevieve Bicknell is attending the Summer Normal school at Danbury.

Mrs. E. A. Rosseter of Lilac Villa is entertaining Mrs. William J. Ennis and child and Mrs. Charles Winkler of New York.

Mrs. E. L. James spent the day in Phoenixville recently.

Struck by Lightning.

Henry Lanphear's house was struck by lightning last night, but no special damage was done.

Mrs. Everett Mathewson and Miss Mabel, who have been visiting at W. L. Durkee's, have returned to their home in Ashaway, R. I. Miss Ethel Durkee accompanied them home.

Degrees Conferred.

Ashford grade, No. 90, gave two candidates the third and fourth degrees last Wednesday evening, after which an appetizing supper was served.

WAUREGAN

Plans for Telephone Improvements—New Raceway Nearly Completed.

Fred Girard of Worcester spent Sunday here with friends.

Misses Janese and Malvina Plankey have returned from Pittsfield, Mass., where they have been guests of relatives and friends.

Telephone Improvements.

Condensers are being placed on telephones here preparatory to the installation of the new long distance system which will go in effect September 1st.

Finger Crushed.

Miss Malvina Chagnon employed in one of the card rooms of the Wauregan Co.'s mill, had the index finger of her left hand severely crushed in a car, Wednesday morning.

The new raceway for the company is nearing completion. The cofferdam will be removed in a few days.

William Wild has returned from a short vacation spent at Warwick, R. I. The rumor about last week that the Decosta farm on the Brookline side had been sold is denied.

The scarlet fever epidemic seems to be on the wane. No new cases having been reported of late.

Called on Army Comrade.

Lindwood Harris, a member of the Third Connecticut Volunteer Infantry during the war with Spain and later in the Philippines, called on his old comrade, F. E. Kies this week.

Blueberries are very plentiful and are being picked by young and old in large quantities.

Farmers hereabout say about half a crop of nearly everything raised on a farm will be the average this year.

DAYVILLE

Local People on Summer Outings—Visitors Being Entertained.

Fred Ormsbee, who has just returned from Norway, has gone to New Haven with the summer.

Robert Bennett is visiting in Providence.

Dr. A. E. Darling has been confined to the bed for a few days.

Milton Burdett is working for C. E. Ayer during the summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Bennett spent the week-end at Kelsey Point with Mrs. C. A. Russell.

Mr. and Mrs. David Chase left Monday night for the summer with their daughter, Mrs. Jenny.

Miss Helen Curtis has returned from a visit to New London.

Mr. and Mrs. David King and daughter were recent guests of Mrs. Sarah Geer.

Roy Shippee is the owner of a motor car, he has made a trip to and from Putnam on it.

North Sterling

Bad Fire at Hubbard Place—Death of William S. Blackmar at 92.

The house, barn and all the outbuildings at the Jeremiah Hubbard place were totally destroyed by fire Thursday morning, July 6, about 9 o'clock. The house was occupied by Walter Davis. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Henry H. Crowell and family of Wilmington, Del., have moved here. They will occupy the house at the Bitgood four corners this summer.

Death at 92.

William S. Blackmar, who died July 2, aged 92 years, had been totally blind for a number of years.

ONECO

Paper Mill Still Because of Low Water

Mrs. D. S. Kenyon is much better. Several attended the Ladies' Aid society meeting held at Sterling at the home of Mrs. Horace Burdick, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Whitford were in Providence Wednesday.

Mrs. E. L. Kenyon was in Moosup Thursday.

For neither wealth, nor ease, nor luxury is the worthy end of a man's life. They may gratify the craving of weaklings and degenerates, but never do they fill the measure of a man.

The paper mill was still Wednesday for want of water in the pond.

Mrs. William Littlefield was on Sterling Hill Wednesday.

Hampton

Joseph Burehnsall lost a valuable cow one day last week. It is thought the extreme heat and scarcity of water was the cause of its death.

William H. Phillips and family have gone to their cottage at Crescent Beach for the remainder of the summer.

Arthur Pearl was a Thread City visitor Wednesday.

Fred Burnham, who recently lost a couple of horses from his pasture near his home, found them last Tuesday in Windham.

WOODSTOCK VALLEY

City Owners Occupying Summer Homes—The Week's Visitors.

William N. Whiting of Providence spent this week at Allen W. Kenyon's.

H. C. Fiske and family, Mr. and Mrs. Cady of Stafford Springs, were at Allen W. Kenyon's Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Spencer and sons and Miss Lucetta Breed of Williamstown and Miss Wood of Glendale, R. I., were at Allen Kenyon's Sunday.

Mrs. Lyon of North Windham spent Sunday at Asa Thayer's.

Miss Edith Briggs of Pomfret spent last week with relatives in the Valley.

Miss Jessie Butler returned to Attleboro, Mass., last week.

Miss Fannie Kenyon is visiting relatives in Putnam.

Mr. and Mrs. Gleason and daughter of Rye, N. Y., were at Allen W. Kenyon's last week.

Miss Margaret Hixson has returned from a visit in Flushing, N. Y.

Mrs. Forest Marcy is extremely ill with pleurisy-pneumonia.

Miss Edith Carpenter has just recovered from an attack of grip.

Occupying Summer Homes.

Mrs. Marian Vroom and two daughters and Miss Josephine Newhall are at their summer home from East Orange, N. J.

Mr. Leonard and family from Flatbush, L. I., are at their summer home. Calvin Easterbrook has been entertaining his daughter from Fiskeville, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Jackson and daughter, Mrs. Sumner, called on friends in the Valley Wednesday.

SOUTH WOODSTOCK

Ralph Andrews Overcome by Heat.

H. W. Young, who has been ill the past week, is slowly improving.

Raymond Sheldon has returned to Southbridge, where he is employed in the American Optical Works.

Mrs. Q. B. Curtis and daughter left last week for Stafford, where Mr. Curtis has accepted a call to the church of that place.

Miss Florence Barber gave a talk Sunday morning in the absence of the expected candidate.

Miss Minnie Wilson has recovered from a severe attack of pneumonia.

Ralph Andrews while working in his garden Tuesday was overcome by the excessive heat.

ABINGTON

Miss A. B. Hammond of New Haven and Miss C. T. Bunnell of Bridgeport are at Breeze Hill farm for the summer.

Mrs. Bond who has been at A. B. Potter's, has returned to her home in Hartford.

C. A. Sharpe and W. E. McGrath have been enjoying the breezes at Greenwood evenings during the hot spell.

Robert Weeks and family from Packerville are occupying G. P. Sumner's cottage for the summer.

William Johnson is now employed at Putnam.

TOLLAND COUNTY

South Willington

James Service, Jr., collector of taxes, has been able to collect a large percent of the personal taxes, but there are still some remaining unpaid.

Funeral of Albert E. Vose.

The funeral of Albert E. Vose, who died Sunday morning in St. Joseph's hospital, Willington, was held here Tuesday.

Burial was at the Hill cemetery. Deceased was 57 years of age and had until recently lived in Westbrook. He is survived by a widow, formerly Mrs. Fannie Scott of this village.

William P. Baxter died at his home July 4 at the age of 79 years.

His wife, Mrs. Mary, died in New London. A brother, who is in Canada, and a sister, Mrs. Marlin Knight, survive him.

Lightning Burns Barn.

A small barn belonging to John Lescovitz, just south of this village, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground Thursday evening.

About 1-1/2 tons of hay had just been stored in the barn and was burned. The loss was partly covered by insurance.

STAFFORD

Overcome by Heat—Rev. A. Arnold Ross Resigns Pastorship of Universalist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whiton of Monson, Mass., spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Glover.

N. Adelbert Jenks was overcome by heat last Friday. A physician was called, but he died Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Mitchell and sons, of Columbia, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Lashbury last Sunday.

Miss Helen Park and daughters, Miss Eunice and Mabel, Miss Elanette Soule and Angus Park are at Niantic for two weeks.

Called to Alabama.

At the parish meeting of the Universalist church last Wednesday evening the resignation of the pastor, Rev. A. Arnold Ross, was read and accepted.

Mr. Ross has received a call from a church in Brewton, Ala., where he was formerly pastor.

Miss Maud Booth and Miss Annie Brown are sent as delegates from the local Y. P. C. Y. to the national convention of the Y. P. C. Y. being held in Portland, Maine.

Miss Margaret Glover and Miss Blanche Shippee are also attending the convention.

GURLEYVILLE

Thunder Storm Prevented Outdoor Service.

F. C. Dunham and daughters, Misses Arlene and Marguerite Dunham and Mrs. Arvilla Dunham were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Swift at a recent family gathering at their residence in Atwood.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wrana and children were recent guests of Mrs. Wrana's parents in South Willington.

Rev. Ernest Mills from Boston, spoke at the regular evening service at the church last week Thursday.

The thunder shower coming up just at the time prevented him from holding an outdoor service that had been planned and was also the cause of a small attendance.

EAST WILLINGTON

Mrs. George Wilson is in poor health. Her daughter is caring for her.

Olin Wilson and William Downs moved. J. Osborn to Coventry this week.

Mr. Church from Hartford has bought Mrs. Osborn's place.

East Willington was visited by a hard thunder shower Wednesday night. Mr. Sterry took Mr. and Mrs. Osborn to their new home in his auto Thursday. Much regret is felt in having to part with such good neighbors.

Protect Yourself!

Against

Substitutes and Imitations of "Mushroom Growth." Ask for HORLICK'S

It means the Original and Genuine MALTED MILK

"Others are Imitations"

The Food-Drink for all Ages.

Rich milk, malted grain, in powdered form. For infants, invalids and growing children. Pure nutrition, upbuilding the whole body. Invigorates nursing mothers and the aged. Get the best. Take no substitute. Ask for HORLICK'S.

In no Combine or Trust

COLUMBIA

Cow Mired in Swamp for Two Days—Funeral of Mrs. Charles A. Post, a Former Resident.

A cow belonging to Mr. Antonio Gregoria failed to come up at night with the herd one night last week. After searching the pasture and woods for two days the animal was discovered mired in the swamp in an exhausted condition; with the help of several of his neighbors and with aid of ropes, pulleys and teams, the cow was extricated from the mud and is now recuperating.

Mr. Gelon Randall and family of Colorado are visiting friends and relatives in Columbia and vicinity. At present they are located at the lake.

Funeral of Mrs. C. A. Post.

The body of Mrs. Charles A. Post, who recently died at Hartford was brought to this place for burial last Saturday. Mrs. Post was for many years a resident of Columbia. She was a daughter of Chester Bill at one time lived at the "Old Inn."

Mr. William Godding and family of Philadelphia are spending the summer in this place, with the family of William Berthoff. Mr. Godding will be absent a considerable portion of the time on business.

Lawn Social Successful.

The Ladies' Aid society held a lawn social at Yeoman's hall last Wednesday afternoon. Supper was served from 5 to 7 and ice cream was supplied to all who desired it. The social was well attended considering the busy season of the year.

Rev. H. M. Lawson Preached.

Last Sunday the pulpit in this place was occupied by Rev. H. M. Lawson as a supply. Our church is without a pastor and we are still consolidating.

Mrs. Edge of New York is spending the summer with the family of Abbott Little.

The American Thread Co. of Willimantic have commenced to draw on Columbia lake for waterpower. There was not sufficient rain during the past year for the lake to reach high water mark.

A good delegation of lads from the Little church, Hartford, with their manager, attended the morning church service last Sunday. The company is camping at the lake.

BOLTON

Excellent Sermon by Rev. Francis Bacheler—Vacation Notes.

Rev. Francis Bacheler of Talcottville occupied the pulpit of the Congregational church Sunday morning in exchange with the pastor, Rev. Charles W. Bart. Mr. Bacheler preached an excellent sermon; the text was 1 Corinthians viii:7.

Mrs. E. E. Daly is entertaining relatives from New Jersey.

Louis D. Eaton of New York is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Eaton. Mr. Eaton has recently returned from a business trip in the southern states which lasted several months.

Clair S. Hutchinson and Mrs. Hutchinson of Hartford are in town for the summer.

Mrs. Charles M. Lee has returned from a month's visit to Boston. Mrs. Lee's mother, Mrs. Meade, returned with her for a stay.

Guest from Ohio.

Miss Cornelia (this) is the guest of her brother John Massey.

J. Kellogg White and Aleck White are spending some time in Hebron with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. White.

Miss Annie Penia of New York is visiting her uncle, Andrew E. Mayers.

Walter Mayers and Hattie Warner of South Manchester are at Mrs. Mary Warner's.

Miss Jennie Ferry of Hartford was a recent guest of Mrs. J. E. Connors.

SPRING HILL.

Hay Crop Light—Heavy Thunder Storm.

Mrs. Bessie G. Barrows, who has been at Hartford for several months has returned to her home.

Walter Cummings and family of Webster, Mass., spent last Sunday at B. M. Sears.

Mrs. Edwin Thornton and son of Bridgeport have been guests of Mrs. C. E. Hawkins.

Mrs. E. F. Davis of Norwich, Ct., and Robert Smith and daughter of New Rochelle, N. Y., are visiting at C. C. Davis.

Erastus Rogers and family of Noank, Ct., are occupying their summer home on Spring Hill.